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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Sub-Commission on Prevention of
Discrimination and Protection of
Minorities
Working Group on Indigenous Populations
Eleventh session
19-30 July 1993
Item 4 of the provisional agenda

STANDARD-SETTING ACTIVITIES: EVOLUTION OF STANDARDS CONCERNING THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS POPULATIONS

Information received from Governments

REPUBLIC OF CHAD

[19 May 1993]
[Original: French

1. The comments of the Chadian Government on the draft universal declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples relate to different sections of the report of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations on its tenth session (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1992/33).

2. These comments are as follows:

(a) Pages 22 and 23: All over the world indigenous peoples are the victims of abuses committed by governments or by the private sector with regard to land and natural resources. Thus their ancestral lands are frequently expropriated. The Chadian Government expresses the following wish:

> That the draft declaration on the universal rights of indigenous peoples should include measures to protect such peoples against inhuman practices of this kind. That is the function of the Sub-Commission on the Protection of Minorities.

(b) Page 28: Any development plan (urbanization, road building, etc.) should take account of ancestral lands, which are a sacred right that should not be taken away from aborigines. To that end it is essential that the United Nations should define the status of indigenous peoples in international law.

(c) Page 38: It is important that a joint body (Governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and indigenous peoples) should be set up at the national level to initiate, monitor and evaluate activities on behalf of indigenous populations.

(d) Page 40: In connection with the protection of cultural and intellectual property, the former colonial Powers should be required to restore to indigenous populations cultural property still confiscated by them.

(e) Page 45 (annex I): In the eighth preambular paragraph, it would be desirable to add the following: "and from any form of manipulation and exploitation by those who hold power".

(f) General remark: In annex I, parts I to IV and operative paragraphs 1 to 30 list different rights of indigenous peoples. However, the authors of the draft declaration already adopted on first reading by the Working Group have not provided for any penalties in the event of violations of these rights by Governments.

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